United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/589
26 February 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General is "very pleased" at smooth unfolding of the election process in Nicaragua, according to United Nations Spokesman at Headquarters in New York.

+ Preparatory Committee for Special Session of General Assembly devoted to International Economic Co-operation, to be held in New York from 23 to 27 April, begins second substantive session.

+ Commission on Status of Women begins session in Vienna.

+ Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of Outer Space Committee begins session in New York.

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The Secretary-General was "very pleased" at the smooth unfolding of the election process in Nicaragua, according to his Spokesman at Headquarters today in New York.

His Personal Representative for the Electoral Process in Nicaragua, Elliot Richardson, stated early this morning that while the immediate victory was for the candidates who had won the elections, the Government of Nicaragua deserved warm commendations for having convened the elections ahead of schedule, having submitted to the test of the people's will, and accepting the the verdict of the ballot box.

The Spokesman said the United Nations Observer Mission for the Verification of the Elections in Nicaragua (ONUVEN), which was responsible for this mission, had produced four reports which spoke highly of the Supreme Electoral Council's role in ensuring free and fair elections. He said the United Nations was very pleased to have played a role in that effort.

The last report submitted by the Mission, covering the last three weeks prior to election day, stated that any possible infringements were of insufficient significance to distort or generally invalidate the electoral process. The final report of the mission has not been issued.

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Although the United Nations Observer Mission has completed its main task, a small United Nations team will remain in Managua to monitor the transition period until the newly elected Government takes power on 25 April.

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Antoine Blanca, Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, said this morning that the international community "is literally at a crossroad, at which it could give way to selfish economic interests or choose openness and solidarity with the weaker members of the community, moving towards the development of a new, more generous world economy".

Mr. Blanca's statement marked the opening of the second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee of the Whole for the Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to International Economic Co-operation, in Particular to the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, which is to be held at Headquarters from 23 to 27 April.

Citing the "mind-boggling" political changes that had been taking place in the world, Mr. Blanca said he feared that the events in Eastern Europe were so fascinating that economic development questions might be minimized. Given the "violence of market forces", there was a great risk that entire groups of countries and social groups within countries could be marginalized.

P. Göran Ohlin, Assistant Secretary-General for Development Research and Policy Analysis in the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the state of international economic co-operation.

Stating that overcoming the debt problem was a most urgent task facing the global economy, Mr. Ohlin held that the special session had to seek a political consensus on the priority attached to it. The only genuine solution was greater overall stability and growth in the world economy, and diversification and industrialization in the commodity-dependent countries.

Among the speakers, Hugo Navajas-Mogro, of Bolivia, speaking on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries, said the Group intended to present a proposal and its points of view in a formal paper, as it was absolutely vital that a solution be found to the problem of external debt.

John O. Burke, of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community, said that in Central and Eastern Europe, there was a dramatic move towards democratic participation in the government process. The special session should signal a new beginning and give the necessary political impetus on development issues.

In general, the 1980s had underlined the responsibility of the developed countries to creating an environment to sustain growth. Also, the decade underlined that fundamental progress would be possible only when relevant national policies were adopted.

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READEX FICHE

Stanislaw Pawlak, of Poland, speaking on behalf of the eight-member Eastern European Group, said the report of the Secretary-General was an important contribution to understanding the problems of international economic development.

Hideo Kagami, of Japan, said his delegation did not share the views of the report on the causes of reduced financial flows to developing countries or on the oversimplified nature of capital flight, the concept of case-by-case approach to external debt problems and the assessment of the policy of co-ordination of the Group of 77. He did not understand why per capita income of developing countries should increase at least as fast as in the developed countries, and he did not fully support the report's views regarding the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

In addition to hearing statements, the Committee this morning adopted its agenda and organization of work for the five-day session, during which it is expected to make recommendations on a provisional agenda for the special session.

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Measures to overcome a number of key obstacles which are threatening to halt progress towards the goal of full equality between men and women by the year 2000 is to be considered by the Commission on the Status of Women, beginning its session today in Vienna (26 February). The Commission, a 45-member body of the Economic and Social Council, was established in 1946.

The Commission's session, ending on 9 March, will consider reports which assert that obstacles still remain, after five years of implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000, adopted by the Nairobi World Conference in 1985.

The reports say that the entrenched resistance to women's advancement and the reduction of resources available for change that has accompanied the world economic situation in the late 1980s have meant that there has been a loss of impetus and even stagnation in some areas.

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The use of space technology in search and rescue and disaster-relief operations is one of the focuses of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space which began its two-week session today at Headquarters in New York.

The Sub-Committee is also considering matters relating to remote sensing of the earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries. Remote sensing refers to the detection and analysis of the earth and its resources by sensors in outer space.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/590
28 February 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council calls on Iran and Iraq to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General in his ongoing efforts to hold direct talks between the parties.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions goes to Khartoum at request of the Secretary-General.

+ Pledges of some $3.5 million made to Cambodian Humanitarian Assistance Programmes at donors meeting today at UN Headquarters.

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The Security Council last night called upon Iran and Iraq to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General in his ongoing efforts to hold direct talks between the parties.

The call came in light of the fact that 18 months after the cease-fire, the Council's resolution had not yet been fully implemented.

The Security Council demanded, in a 1987 resolution on the question (resolution 598), that "as a first step towards a negotiated settlement, Iran and Iraq observe an immediate cease-fire, discontinue all military actions on land, at sea and in the air, and withdraw all forces to the internationally recognized boundaries without delay". The Council also asked the Secratary-General to explore, in consultation with Iran and Iraq, "the question of entrusting an impartial body with inquiring into responsibility for the conflict and to report to the Security Council as soon as possible".

By yesterday's action, in the form of a statement by the Council President, the Council gave its full support to the Secretary-General in his efforts to hold appropriately structured talks, under his auspices, between the parties for a period of two months and with a specific agenda.

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For information media—not an official record

United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions Abdulrahim A. Farah, arrived last night in Khartoum to convey the Secretary-General's concern over the interruption of flow of humanitarian aid to the civilians affected and displaced by the civil war in the south of the Sudan.

According to a United Nations spokesman, Mr. Farah met this morning with the Sudanese Foreign Minister and attended a meeting of the with United Nations Donors' Emergency Operation Group. He also met with the Minister of Relief and Displaced People's Affairs. Tomorrow, he will meet with the Head of State of the Sudan, Omer Hassan Ahmed El-Bassir.

Mr. Farah will leave for Ethiopia on Friday to discuss United Nations relief operations in that country.

* * *

Donors to the Cambodian Humanitarian Assistance Programmes met at United Nations Headquarters today to discuss measures taken to assist Cambodian refugees and announce contributions to the programmes.

Addressing the meeting, Shah A.M.S. Kibria, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Co-ordination of Cambodian Humanitarian Assistance Programmes, said those programmes of assistance "are now threatened". The financial situation of the Cambodian Emergency Trust Fund -- and therefore of the United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO) -- was "perilously close to running out of money", he said.

"This situation cannot go on", he added. "If the necessary funds are not forthcoming there will be no choice but to reduce or cancel altogether UNBRO programmes in education, security and other community services, as well as assistance to affected Thai villagers."

Mr. Kibria said the 270,000 displaced Khmer waiting at the Thai-Cambodian border still depended entirely on the international community for the food, water and medicine on which they subsisted.

He said everyone should be concerned "about this disregard for the basic human rights as well as the safety and welfare of these persons who have now been moved beyond the reach of international humanitarian assistance".

In response to that appeal, pledges totalling some $3.5 million for 1990 were announced this morning by Australia, Canada, Denmark, Malaysia and China. The United States said it had already donated $5 million for this year and expected to contribute an additional amount later. Norway said it had already pledged almost $800,000; and France pledged a contribution in kind of foodstuffs.

The next donors' meeting for the Cambodian Humanitarian Assistance Programmes is scheduled to take place at Bangkok in May.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/591
1 March 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General "deplores" high number of casualties in recent developments in Gaza and appeals to Israeli occupying authorities to "abide by their obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention".

+ A United Nations presence requested in Nicaragua by both the outgoing and the incoming administrations in that country to remain until inauguration of new President.

+ Government of Sudan reaffirms its full commitment and responsibility for implementation of Operation Lifeline Sudan.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar expressed concern today over recent developments in Gaza, particularly in the Rafah area, which, according to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), has been under curfew for most of the past eight days.

The Secretary-General said he deplored the high number of casualties, which peaked on 26 February when 17 Palestinian refugees were wounded by live ammunition, and another 51 by plastic bullets.

He again appealed to the Israeli occupying authorities to "abide by their obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention", and called on Israel "to reconsider its decision to further extend the closure of the universities in the occupied territories".

In a letter to the Secretary-General (document A/45/155-S/21174, 28 February), the Permanent Observer of Palestine stated that the casualties resulted when the Israeli army opened fire on a crowd of Palestinian civilians demanding the release of the body of a young man who had been shot by the Israeli army.

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For information media—not an official record

A United Nations presence in Nicaragua has been requested "until the inauguration of the new President", it was announced today at Headquarters.

According to a spokesman for the Secretary-General, both the outgoing Sandinista administration and the incoming National Opposition Union (UNO) administration requested such a presence immediately after the election results were finalized. The spokesman said that both parties "felt it would be useful to have the presence of the United Nations (in Nicaragua) for the next month or so". The group to remain in Nicaragua after the inauguration on 25 April is to consist of about 10 to 12 United Nations officers.

* * *

The Government of the Sudan reaffirmed today its full commitment and responsibility to provide humanitarian relief assistance to all civilians affected by ongoing conflict and drought in that country, including the implementation of Operation Lifeline Sudan.

Agreement was reached at a meeting in Khartoum between the Head of State, Lt. General Omer Hassan Ahmed El Bashir, and the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Abdulrahim A. Farah, on a number of issues, with a view to resuming relief operations and the full implementation of Operation Lifeline Sudan Phase II. Mr. Farah presented the General with a letter from the Secretary-General addressing those issues and reaffirming the commitment of the United Nations to support humanitarian efforts in the Sudan.

The Government of the Sudan, in reaffirming its commitment to Operation Lifeline Sudan, agreed on the necessity of a partnership among all involved in the Operation, the neutrality of humanitarian relief and the continued need for "corridors of tranquility".

An agreement was reached on the immediate distribution of relief supplies to the various affected areas. To facilitate the assessment and monitoring process, flights by light aircraft will resume immediately.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

DH/591/Corr.1
2 March 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

CORRECTION

On page 2 of the Thursday Highlights, issued yesterday, 1 March, the last sentence of the second paragraph should read as follows:

"The group to remain in Nicaragua until the inauguration on 25 April is to consist of about 10 to 12 United Nations officers."

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For information media—not an official record

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/592
2 March 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ President Vassiliou of Cyprus says no substantial progress has been made between Greek and Turkish Cypriots during talks at United Nations Headquarters.

+ Secretary-General appeals to Cyprus leaders not to say or do anything to aggravate situation.

+ Secretary-General is "following with deep concern the escalating violence in East Beirut".

+ Under-Secretary-General Farah meets with Government of Ethiopia and representatives of donors, non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies on the present emergency situation in that country.

+ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees protests against recent repeated violations of its health centres in Gaza Strip by Israeli authorities.

* * *

President George Vassiliou of Cyprus said at a press conference at United Nations Headquarters tonight that no progress had been made during the talks between himself and Rauf Denktash, head of the Turkish Cypriot community, and Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

He said he had hoped that substantial progress in the preparation of a draft outline agreement between the parties would have been possible as requested by the Security Council in its recent statement.

The talks had not produced anything, "as a matter of fact, there has been no talks, no negotiation. There has been a number of meetings which could not lead to anything because of the pre-condition posed by Mr. Denktash", Mr. Vassiliou said.

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He said that it was now up to the Security Council to change the mandate of the Secretary-General in his efforts to establish peace between the two sides.

* * *

Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar will be reporting shortly to the Security Council on talks with leaders of the communities in Cyprus, which ended on Friday, 2 March, according to a statement issued by his Spokesman. The talks began on February 26.

At the talks, according to the statement, it did not prove possible to advance in drafting an outline of an overall agreement. However, the Secretary-General appealed to both leaders not to say anything that could aggravate the situation and also appealed to them to remain committed to finding a solution to the problem of Cyprus within the framework of the intercommunal talks.

* * *

Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar is "following with deep concern the escalating violence in East Beirut".

His Spokesman told correspondents today that he was particularly appalled by the high death toll. Out of humanitarian concern, the Secretary-General expressed the hope that the fighting would come to an end.

The fighting shattered a 13-day cease-fire, and, according to reports, has killed more than 100.

* * *

The Secretary-General is concerned about the delivery of relief supplies to the population in Ethiopia afflicted by drought and conflict, his Spokesman said today at a press briefing.

At his request, the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Abdulrahim A. Farah, had consultations today with the Government of Ethiopia, as well as representatives of donors, non-governmental organizations, and United Nations agencies on the present emergency situation.

An estimated 4 million people face starvation if relief food and other humanitarian supplies do not reach them in the coming weeks. For drought victims alone, some 600,000 tons of food would be required to cover their needs for this year.

A general agreement has been reached to commence without further delay the movement of supplies into the affected areas, utilizing the port of Assab. The United Nations will make available long-haul vehicles from the World Food Programme transport operation in Ethiopia. Initial consignments of food have already been made available by the donor community.

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* * *

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) today expressed its concern over recent repeated violations of its health centres in the Gaza Strip by the Israeli authorities.

Since 6 February, UNRWA has reported, there have been five incursions into its health clinics by officials of the Israeli civil administration accompanied by soldiers. UNRWA officials said Israeli soldiers had entered the clinic in Nuseirat camp where they ransacked records, interrogated and searched UNRWA staff on night duty and threw medical books and slides to the ground; the intrusion lasted one and a half hours. Similar violations were reported at Bureij health centre and at the clinics in Bureij and Rafah camps.

Letters of protest have been sent by UNRWA to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations Office at Vienna, and to the Israeli civil administration in the Gaza Strip.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/593
5 March 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Preparatory Committee for Conference on Development and Environment to be held in Brazil in June 1992 opens session in New York today.

+ Committee on United Nations Charter ends session, adopting report to General Assembly.

+ Preparatory Committee for next month's special General Assembly session on international economic co-operation concludes second session.

* * *

The United Nations Conference on Development and Environment to be held in Brazil in June 1992 is the "high road of the future of our planet and it would be disastrous for the human community if we do not take this high road", Maurice Strong, the Secretary-General of the Conference, said today.

Speaking at a press briefing marking the opening of the first organizational session of the Committee preparing for the Conference, Mr. Strong said the key issue of the Conference was how the developing countries could gain access to the technology they needed to integrate the environmental dimension into their own national development activities.

The potential for awareness was much greater now than in 1972, the year of the first United Nations Conference on Human Environment held in Stockholm, he said, but problems were tougher now because the kind of commitments that were going to be needed "are going to fundamentally change the shape of international relations and, eventually, the structure of our societies".

The Preparatory Committee for the Conference, which is to end its session on 16 March, will have before it a report of the Secretary-General, in which he summarizes the objective of the Conference as an examination of strategies on environment and development to arrive at agreements and commitments by Governments and intergovernmental organizations, and the identification of the financial resources needed to implement such strategies.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The non-governmental organization community can enrich and enhance the deliberations of the Conference and the preparatory process, the Secretary-General states, and should participate throughout, with the form and manner of that participation to be determined by the Committee.

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The Special Committee on the United Nations Charter last Friday concluded a three-week session at Headquarters by recommending the use of fact-finding activities to gain full knowledge of all the relevant facts in situations that threatened the peace.

The Committee further recommended that United Nations procedures be rationalized, and, in that connection, suggested, among other things, that before the end of each Assembly session, the General Committee should consider drawing up its observations on the organization of the work of the session, in order to facilitate the work of future sessions of the Assembly.

* * *

The Preparatory Committee for next month's special General Assembly session on international economic co-operation (23-27 April) concluded its second session Friday by approving a provisional agenda and work programme providing for a general debate and exhorting delegations to make every effort to strive for consensus on substantial matters.

When the Preparatory Committee meets again on 17 April it will have before it proposals for a draft declaration on international economic co-operation submitted by Canada and another by Bolivia on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries.

The draft of the Group of 77 would have Member States declare their intention to develop a new global covenant to promote international economic co-operation for the growth of the world economy and to revitalize the economic growth and development of the developing countries.

To achieve that goal, the draft spells out 57 points, which, among other things, would have all Member States agree that net flows of resources to developing countries should be substantially increased and that a long-term development approach be favoured over short-term.

Speaking on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Economic Community, John Burke of Ireland said the Community's views on international economic co-operation diverged from the Group of 77's in several respects. The Twelve believed that a draft declaration should make it clear that developing countries were primarily responsible for their own development. In addition, there should be references to the role of democratic institutions, the relevance of market oriented growth, and the development of human resources to ensure the health, education and other requirements of developing countries.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/594
6 March 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General calls the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil in 1992, a "milestone".

+ Ambassador of Afghanistan says yesterday's attempted military coup against his Government had been "crushed completely and with few casualties".

+ Preparatory Commission on Law of the Sea begins eighth regular session in Kingston.

* * *

The United Nations Conference on Development and Environment, to be held in Brazil in 1992, is expected to be a "milestone in our collective efforts to repair the damage and redress the ecological, economic and social imbalances that now threaten the future of our planet", according to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

In an opening statement to the Preparatory Committee of the Conference yesterday, the Secretary-General also said that twice in this century the world had been ravaged by wars unprecedented in their scale leading to the establishment of the United Nations. Now, however, the world faced the possibility of another kind of catastrophe -- the result of humanity's violence against nature, he stated.

Citing the demands of the work of the Preparatory Committee, the Secretary-General said many of the processes of change and the agents in them lay beyond the purview of Governments. He called for the forging of new partnerships and networks with the scientific community, business, industry, media and non-governmental and grass-roots organizations.

* * *

Yesterday's attempted military coup against the Government of Afghanistan has been "crushed completely and with few casualties" by loyal armed forces, Afghanistan's Permanent Representative of Afghanistan, Noor Ahmad Noor, told a

(more)

press conference this afternoon. He said the "extremist army elements" participating in the insurrection were led by ex-Defence Minister, Shanawas Tanay, aided and abetted by the Pakistan-based Mujahadeen commander, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan. Mr. Tanay was still in hiding somewhere, probably in the vicinity of the capital, Kabul.

Mr. Noor said President Najibullah had immediately appointed General Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, former Interior Minister, as Defence Minister. Replacing General Watanjar as Interior Minister was Raz Mohammad Patkin. Army and police forces were obeying the new Ministers' orders and calm had returned to Kabul city, he said.

Asked how many people were involved and killed in the action, the Ambassador answered that the number of people who attempted the coup was very small and out of that group a very limited number were killed. Most had decided to surrender and a number were captured.

As to his Government's relations with Iran, Mr. Noor said Afghanistan desired peaceful relations with its neighbour, whose advocacy of a political solution to the question of Afghanistan was "most constructive".

* * *

The Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea began its eight regular session in Kingston yesterday. During the four-week session, it will discuss the practical arrangements for the implementation of obligations of registered pioneer investors of deep sea-bed mining. Thus far, France, India, Japan and the Soviet Union have been registered to acquire exploration and/or exploitation rights. The Preparatory Commission is also to make all the arrangements for the future Authority and Tribunal, which will come into existence once the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea receives 60 ratifications. Currently, only 42 States have ratified it.

Opening the session, the Commission Chairman, Jose Luis Jesus (Cape Verde), said the registration of the pioneer investors in 1987 had been celebrated in the Preparatory Commission as an important landmark in the implementation of its mandate. However, it was important that a solution be found for the implementation of the pioneers' obligations. He was determined to dedicate as much time as possible to ongoing consultations on the matter.

The representative of the Soviet Union said the "Group of 77" developing countries and other groups of countries had demonstrated great patience in the search for agreement on the points of controversy. While the sea-bed Area had been declared the "common heritage of mankind", it had tended to be viewed by many as a gigantic industrial testing ground, with insufficient regard for the need to safeguard the ocean and sea-bed environment.

He called for the collection of data by the Preparatory Commission with a view to predicting and assessing possible dangers to the ocean environment and suggested that an ad hoc group be established to make the necessary recommendations.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/595
8 March 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General addresses meeting in observance of International Women's Day.

* * *

At a meeting at Headquarters today in observance of International Women's Day, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said that over the past year women staff members had participated, for the first time in almost equal numbers with men, on the civilian side of a historic United Nations operation. They had made a significant contribution to the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), "paving the way for the independence of Namibia later this month". The same could be said of the United Nations Observation Mission to Verify the Elections in Nicaragua (ONUCA), nearly half of whose staff were women.

The Secretary-General said he welcomed the special emergency measures introduced with a view to attaining the targets set by the General Assembly for the representation of women in the Secretariat. He stressed the importance both of reaching the 30 per cent target Secretariat-wide and of placing more women in positions at policy-making levels. He added that the Commission on the Status of Women, now meeting in Vienna, had recommended a new goal of 35 per cent of Professional post for women by 1995.

Concluding, the Secretary-General reaffirmed his public message for International Women's Day: that the problems being faced in an ever-more complex and interdependent world could not be resolved by the efforts of only half the population of the globe. Both men and women must work together as equal partners in order to ensure a sustainable future for the generations to come.

He said that at a time when Member States were drawing together in support of the United Nations, and new responsibilities were being entrusted to the Organization, he knew he could count on all members of the Secretariat -- women and men -- working together to meet the immense challenges that lay ahead.

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For information media—not an official record

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/596
9 March 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General briefs Security Council members on meetings between United Nation officials and representatives of outgoing and incoming administrations in Nicaragua about possible role for ONUCA in voluntary demobilization of the contras.

+ Secretary-General is requested by President-elect of Namibia, Sam Nujoma, to "lift the ban of oil and other goods" destined for that country.

+ Two United States Congressmen meet with Secretary-General to hold press conference on diplomatic efforts to help avert the famine situation in Ethiopia.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar this morning briefed Security Council members on discussions held in Managua last week by Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding and the Commander of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), Major-General Agustin Quesada Gomez, with representatives of the outgoing and incoming administrations in Nicaragua about a possible role for ONUCA in the voluntary demobilization of the contras.

According to his Spokesman, the Secretary-General is to return next week to the Council with a full report on the modalities of the demobilization and what would be necessary, both in terms of personnel and finance, to carry out the mission.

* * *

The Secretary-General has been asked by the President-elect of Namibia, Sam Nujoma, through his good offices "to advise all oil-producing and trading nations, as Members of the United Nations, to forthwith lift the ban of oil and other goods destined for Namibia".

(more)

As part of the international campaign to isolate the South African regime because of its apartheid policy, the General Assembly had requested Member States to apply economic sanctions, including an oil embargo, against Pretoria. Walvis Bay, which is recognized as an integral part of Namibia according to the recently adopted Constitution of that country, has been included in the ban on the sale of oil destined for South African ports.

Mr. Nujoma said that to date this ban had applied to exports of oil and other goods to Namibia. With the independence of Namibia set for 21 March, he was confident the ban would automatically be lifted by all countries Members of the United Nations.

* * *

"In a matter of weeks, we will face the consequences of the starvation of hundred of thousands of people unless some relief comes soon" to Ethiopia and its surrounding areas, United States Congressman Byron L. Dorgan, Chairman of the International Task Force of the House Select Committee on Hunger, told a press conference at Headquarters this afternoon.

Mr. Dorgan and another Congressman, Thomas M. Foglietta, had met earlier with the Secretary-General to discuss world-wide famine, particularly diplomatic efforts to help avert the famine situation in Ethiopia.

The two Congressmen told correspondents that they had appealed to the Secretary-General to "marshal public opinion and the Governments of the countries around the world to respond on a humanitarian basis to a crying need in Ethiopia and other parts of Africa". In a couple of weeks, "we will see dire consequenses" unless the international community is mobilized, they stated.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/597
12 March 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council unanimously adopts resolution that calls on leaders of the two communities in Cyprus to pursue efforts to reach a mutually acceptable solution, providing for the establishment of a bi-communal and bi-zonal federation.

+ In report to Security Council on talks between Cypriot leaders, the Secretary-General says he will continue to "assist the two communities to arrive at an agreed solution by helping them to find ways of harmonizing their respective interests and concerns".

+ Winners of 1990 United Nations Population Award announced.

* * *

The Security Council this afternoon adopted a resolution that calls on the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus to pursue their efforts to reach freely a mutually acceptable solution, providing for the establishment of a federation that will be bi-communal, as regards the constitutional aspects, and bi-zonal, as regards the territorial aspects, in line with the high-level agreements of 1977 and 1979. It also called for their co-operation, on an equal footing, with the Secretary-General in completing, in the first instance and on an urgent basis, an outline of an overall agreement, as had been agreed in June 1989.

The Council requested the Secretary-General to pursue his mission of good offices in order to achieve the earliest possible progress in the discussions between the two leaders, and expressed its concern that at the recent meeting in New York it had not been possible to reach an agreement on an outline.

* * *

In the Secretary-General's report, which the Council had before it, he had stated that the talks between the two Cypriot leaders had resulted in an impasse due to the inability of both sides to accept the outline of an agreement based, among other things, on the unity of Cyprus as the home of both the Greek Cypriot community and the Turkish Cypriot community.

(more)

The Secretary-General reported that difficulties had emerged from the very beginning of the meetings due to the insistence of Rauf Denktash that the terms "communities" be used in a manner that was synonymous with the term "peoples", each having a right to "self-determination". Those difficulties remained unresolved on Wednesday afternoon, prompting the Secretary-General to cancel meetings on Thursday and to use that time to reflect on the situation.

In a joint meeting, the Secretary-General reported he had told George Vassiliou and Mr. Denktash that the Security Council's mandate for the Secretary-General had posited a solution based on the existence of one State of Cyprus comprising two communities, and that the objective of the exercise of his good offices was a new constitution for the State of Cyprus that would regulate the relations between the two communities on a federal, bi-communal and bi-zonal basis.

On 5 March, the Secretary-General reported that he received a letter from Mr. Denktash in which he stated, among other things, that it was clear that the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots were two distinct and separate peoples with the right to freely determine their political status. Mr. Denktash said the 1975 Security Council resolution on Cyprus "was never intended to build a conceptual framework which would restrict or take away any right of the two parties in Cyprus which they already possessed and exercised both before and after this resolution". "This right", he said, "will be expressed once again to transform the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus into one of the constituent republics of the future federation in Cyprus following the current negotiations, if they result in any acceptable solution to the Turkish Cypriot community." "It is only after this process", he wrote, "that a solution based on one State in the form of a federal union comprising two peoples will have been achieved."

The Secretary-General concluded that he would continue to spare no effort in reaching a solution providing for a political settlement and the establishment of a mutually acceptable constitutional arrangement in Cyprus. He stated that he would "assist the two communities to arrive at an agreed solution by helping them to find ways of harmonizing their respective interests and concerns".

* * *

Alfred Sauvy, a noted French demographer, and the Mauritius National Family Health and Population Council have won the 1990 United Nations Population Award.

Presented annually by the United Nations, the Award is given to individuals and institutions which have made outstanding contributions to increasing the awareness of population problems and to their solutions.

Mr. Sauvy was chosen by the Committee because of his work focusing on the complex relationships between population, economics and social dynamics. A

(more)

professor at the College de France and a former member of the United Nations Population Commission, Mr. Sauvy has authored more than 40 books and numerous scientific articles.

The Mauritius National Family Health and Population Council was chosen for the immensely successful efforts of its family-planning programme. Since 1972, the work of the Council has led to a decline in the birth rate of Mauritius, an increase in the percentage of couples using contraception and a drop in infant mortality rates.

Each winner will receive a diploma, a gold medal and $12,500.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/597/Rev.1*
12 March 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council unanimously adopts resolution calling on leaders of the two communities in Cyprus to pursue efforts to reach a mutually acceptable solution, providing for establishment of a bi-communal and bi-zonal federation, safeguarding its independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-alignment, and excluding union in whole or in part with any other country and any form of partition or secession. Council requests Secretary-General to pursue mission of good offices and assist two communities by making suggestions to facilitate discussions.

+ In report to Security Council on joint talks with Cypriot leaders, Secretary-General says introduction of terminology that differed from terminology used by Security Council had posed more than a semantic problem; it created "an impasse of a substantive kind", which raised questions regarding essence of good offices mandate given to Secretary-General by Security Council and, therefore, regarding basis of talks. Secretary-General asks Council to assess situation and provide him with guidance.

+ Winners of 1990 United Nations Population Award announced.

* * *

The Security Council this afternoon adopted a resolution that calls on the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus to pursue their efforts to reach freely a mutually acceptable solution, providing for the establishment of a federation that will be bi-communal, as regards the constitutional aspects, and bi-zonal, as regards the territorial aspects, in line with the high-level agreements of 1977 and 1979, and that would safeguard the independence,

(more)

* Revised to include supplementary information.

For information media—not an official record

sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-alignment of Cyprus, excluding union in whole or in part with any other country and any form of partition or secession. The resolution also called for the co-operation of the two communities, on an equal footing, with the Secretary-General in completing, in the first instance and on an urgent basis, an outline of an overall agreement, as had been agreed in June 1989.

The Council requested the Secretary-General to pursue his mission of good offices in order to achieve the earliest possible progress and, towards that end, to assist the two communities by making suggestions to facilitate the discussions.

* * *

In his report to the Council on his talks with the Cypriot leaders, the Secretary-General recalled that in drawing up the mandate for the Secretary-General's good offices on Cyprus, the Security Council had "posited a solution based on the existence of one State of Cyprus comprising two communities. In line with the Council's mandate and the 1977 and 1979 high-level agreements, the objective of the exercise of good offices was a new constitution for the State of Cyprus that would regulate the relations between the two communities in Cyprus on a federal, bi-communal and bi-zonal basis. In this effort, each community would participate on an equal footing and would also have the opportunity to express separately its consent to the arrangements reached.

The Secretary-General states that in the context of the intercommunal talks, the introduction of terminology that was different from that used by the Security Council had posed more than a semantic problem and that, unless acceptable to both sides, any change in terminology could alter the conceptual framework to which all had thus far adhered. "In the circumstances, I came to the conclusion, regrettably, that we faced an impasse of a substantive kind, which raised questions regarding the essence of the mandate of good offices given to me by the Security Council and, therefore, regarding the basis of the talks". In view of this, the Secretary-General asks the Council to provide him with guidance on how to proceed.

On 5 March, the Secretary-General continues, he received a letter from Mr. Denktash in which he stated, among other things, that "the difficulties which confronted us during our meetings relating to the use of the word communities or peoples have not been correctly reflected in your statement. Whatever terminology is used, is it clear that the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots are two distinct and separate peoples, with the right to freely determine their political status. The insistence on use of the word community in a restrictive sense and the refusal to accept any other proposed alternative is tantamount to a rejection of this right". ...

(more)

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/598
13 March 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Elliot Richardson, the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for monitoring the electoral process in Nicaragua, briefs correspondents on United Nations role in plan to disband the contras in that country following the elections.

+ The Secretary-General urges restraint in public statements to ensure success of talks between Government of El Salvador and Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN).

+ The American Foundation for the Blind, in co-operation with the Department of Public Information (DPI), hosts demonstration of technology for blind and visually impaired persons.

* * *

Prospects of disbanding the contras before the formal transfer of power in Nicaragua "are good", because both the outgoing and incoming Government, and the United States which has been supporting the contras, are in favour of bringing it about, Elliot L. Richardson, the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for monitoring the electoral process in Nicaragua, said today.

At a press briefing here, Mr. Richardson said the major problem was working out a plan that would assure the personal security of the contra personnel and enable them to re-establish themselves in the country. This plan was being worked on right now.

He said that on election day, 25 February, President Daniel Ortega had urged a continuation of the United Nations role. This was agreed to by UNO, the newly elected Government, the day after the election. On that day, planning for a continued larger United Nations role began in New York, where it was decided that the co-ordinating group, a "transition team", would consist of 12 United Nations officials headed by S. Iqbal Riza, Director of the United Nations Observers for the Verification of the Elections in Nicaragua (ONUVEN), and that it would draw on the resources of all of the United Nations agencies represented in that country.

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Mr. Richardson said both sides intended to bring about a smooth transition of power, and there was no indication of any reservation on either side. Asked if he saw any difficult issues in the transition process, Mr. Richardson said the problem of what was going to happen to the military and to the forces of the Department of Interior needed to be thought through carefully. Also, the problem of land tenure had been recognized as difficult and requiring specific consideration in the transitional process.

* * *

A statement attributable to the Secretary-General's Spokesman noted this afternoon that the Secretary-General had learned of the recent public statements surrounding his efforts with regard to the conflict in El Salvador. It said the Secretary-General was engaged in an effort to bring about talks between the Government of El Salvador and FMLN, and that his Personal Representative, Alvaro de Soto, had returned to Headquarters from San Salvador and Mexico towards the end of last week after conducting talks with President Alfredo Cristiani and the FMLN leadership. That effort was still under way.

Since confidentiality in this process was an indispensable requirement for its success, the statement went on, the Secretary-General did not wish to comment on the substance under discussion. He wished to state, nevertheless, that during the last weeks he had received the full co-operation of both the Government of El Salvador and FMLN. The difficulties which still existed were due to the complicated nature of the process of finding a solution to a conflict that had torn El Salvador for the last decade. The Secretary-General urged the utmost restraint in public statements in order to ensure the success of the talks.

* * *

Today at Headquarters, the American Foundation for the Blind, in co-operation with DPI, hosted a demonstration of technology for blind and visually impaired persons. The demonstration was held in conjunction with a photographic exhibition entitled "More Alike than Different: Blind and Visually Impaired Children around the World", which is on display in the General Assembly lobby until 26 March.

One of the machines being displayed is a "reading machine" which converts typewritten print into synthetic speech. Other technology on display includes computer software to enhance the size of characters on video screens and a laptop computer with synthetic speech output.

The presentation forms part of United Nations activities aimed at increasing awareness of the situation of the disabled. The United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons is being celebrated until 1992.

It is estimated that there are more than 500 million persons who are physically or mentally disabled. Each year this number increases by some 15 million, with added victims of war, accidents, malnutrition and disease.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/599
14 March 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General tells Security Council President he intends to redeploy a limited number of military officers as military advisers to his Personal Representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan and assist in implementation of mandate.

* * *

The Secretary-General, in a letter dated 13 March addressed to the President of the Security Council (document S/21188), stated his intention to redeploy a limited number of military officers as military advisers to his Personal Representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

This step was being taken in order to fulfil the mandate given to him by the Organization to encourage and facilitate the early realization of a comprehensive political settlement in Afghanistan.

The Secretary-General said that present arrangements for the temporary deployment in Afghanistan and Pakistan of military officers from existing United Nations operations to assist in the mission of good offices would come to an end tomorrow, 15 March. His consultations with the signatories of the Geneva Accords had indicated that another extension for a further period of two months would not meet with the necessary consensus.

He said the military officers would be detached temporarily from existing United Nations operations, with the concurrence of their respective countries, to assist in the further implementation of the responsibilities entrusted to the Secretary-General by General Assembly resolution 44/15 of last November.

At today's United Nations press briefing, the Spokesman for the Secretary-General said there were at present 35-40 observers in the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP). A limited number of these would be redeployed as military advisers to the Secretary-General's Personal Representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Benon Sevan. Five would be stationed in Islamabad and five in Kabul. From 15 March onwards, the form of UNGOMAP would, therefore, be reduced.

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For information media—not an official record

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/600
15 March 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council holds two meetings on complaints of "unlawful Israeli moves to settle the occupied territories".

+ The Secretary-General will travel to Namibia next Monday for independence celebrations scheduled for 20 and 21 March; and to North Africa on Western Sahara question.

+ Under-Secretary-General Farah says he will return to Ethiopia as soon as possible to discuss with the Government ways of improving the supply of emergency relief to the civilian population threatened by drought.

+ United Nations spokeswoman says the Secretary-General's good offices mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, as described in an Assembly resolution last November, continues.

* * *

The Security Council held two meetings today at the request of the Soviet Union, on the issue of "unlawful Israeli moves to settle the occupied territories".

Opening the debate, Aleksandr Belonogov of the Soviet Union said the settling of immigrants in the occupied territories had raised concern. Israel's flouting of international law required the immediate attention of the Security Council, which had called on Israel to halt not only the creation but the planning of settlements in the territories occupied since 1967. The evolution of the situation in the Middle East in recent times had been viewed with some hope, but unfortunately the settlement of immigrants in the occupied territories was a new and serious obstacle to peace. The question at issue was not that the Soviet Union should impose prohibitions on emigration. The responsibility lay with Israel, which was in violation of international law.

Farouq Qaddoumi, Head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), said the current Israeli action was a usurpation of Palestinian land in preparation for expulsion of that people, as

(more)

had happened in 1948. Jews were coming from all parts of the world to replace Palestinians in their homeland. The settlements remained one of the insurmountable obstacles to peace in the Middle East. An international conference was the proper framework for reaching a just solution with the necessary international guarantees. The Middle East would continue to drift towards yet another war if the intransigent stand of Israel continued. The Council must take concrete action against the current massive immigration.

Malaysia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dato' Haji Abu Hassan Bin Haji Omar, condemned Israel's policy of importing large numbers of Jews from a foreign country to serve its sinister political and strategic objectives. Some of those immigrants were being resettled in the occupied territories of Palestine -- a blatant breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Israel's aim of populating the occupied territories with Jews was a deliberate plan related to the Zionist goal of a Greater Israel. It would be a travesty of justice if thousands of foreign Jews were allowed to settle in Israel, and eventually the occupied territories, when Palestinians were being kept out -- or driven out -- of their ancestral land.

Isidoro Malmierca-Peoli, Cuba's Minister for External Relations, said there had been talk of the right of Jews to emigrate and return to their homeland, yet more than 5 million Palestinians remained outside their land. The United States policy of limiting the immigration of Jews from Eastern Europe, together with Israel's policy of settling such immigrants in the occupied territories, had made peace in the Middle East more distant. The United Nations owed a debt to the Palestinian people, which would only be liquidated when an international peace conference on the Middle East was held, and the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland and live in peace was recognized.

This afternoon, Abdullah Salah of Jordan, speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States, emphasized the correlation between Jewish immigration and continuation of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and termed the recent "intensified immigration" of Jews a "grave threat". He said it would be a "denial of justice" to allow the Jews to settle in the occupied territories for no other reason than that they were Jewish, while the Palestinians were denied the right to settle in their homeland only because they were Arab. The dangers of emigration from the Soviet Union should have been recognized earlier; the countries that had called the loudest for such emigration should have opened their doors to it. Instead, they had restricted their immigration and directed them to Israel.

Absa Claude Diallo of Senegal, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, said Israel had pursued and accelerated its settlements policy. There were 185 settlements on the West Bank and 22 in Gaza. That policy could only be part of a plan with very precise objectives and timetables. It had imposed measures to stifle any form of expression by the Palestinian people. The situation had only grown worse since the beginning of the intifadah. The Committee had taken note of Soviet and United States statements condemning the present Israeli policies and shared the concerns expressed. While Senegal supported the right of all to

emigrate to wherever they wished, that right could not be exercised to the detriment of a third group. The Council must support current initiatives to bring about a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Middle East situation.

Johanan Bein of Israel said the mass immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union was the culmination of a long and strenuous international struggle, in which the free world as a whole played a leading role. Israel appreciated those efforts, and commended the determination of the Soviet Union to grant freedom of movement to its citizens. At the same time, an ugly campaign was being waged by Arab States with the aim of halting the immigration of Jews to Israel altogether. "The accusations ... implying that Israel intends to displace Palestinians by the massive settlement of Jewish immigrants in their place, are preposterous", he said. The Arab campaign was directed "against the very essence of Israel ... and against peace and accommodation with the reality of Israel".

Clovis Maksoud, observer for the League of Arab States, said the Council's deliberations came at a crucial time in the evolution of the peace process. A crisis was occurring in the Israeli Government which carried the seeds of continued procrastination under the pretense of forming a new Government. What was important were the "constants" in the Israeli political situation, and not the surface happenings. Israel was the only State today with no announced borders. It was asking to be recognized as "a State in the process of becoming". That was the root of Israel's objection to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) negotiating on behalf of the Palestinian people. Israel's "continued paranoia" was an attempt to justify its next phase of the Zionist plan.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar will travel to Namibia next Monday, 19 March, to swear in the President-elect of that country, Sam Nujoma, at the ceremony marking the independence of Namibia, scheduled for 20 and 21 March.

En route to Namibia, the Secretary-General will make an official visit to Equatorial Guinea, where he will meet with President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo.

The Secretary-General will then travel to North Africa in pursuance of his good offices mission on the question of Western Sahara. In Rabat, where he will arrive for a two-day visit on Friday, 23 March, the Secretary-General will meet with King Hassan of Morocco. While in the region, he will also meet with the Secretary-General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO), Mohamed Abdelaziz. The Secretary-General will then travel to Algiers, where he will meet President Chadli Bendjedid, in his capacity as one of the two observers of the Western Sahara talks. After departing Algeria on 27 March, the Secretary-General will make a private visit to Jordan before arriving in Paris on Saturday, 31 March.

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The Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Abdulrahim A. Farah, said at today's United Nations press briefing that he is returning to Ethiopia as soon as possible to have talks with its Government about ways of improving the supply of emergency relief to the almost 5 million people threatened by drought in that country. The talks included discussions about the rebels in the northern part of the country who, so far, had made the distribution very difficult.

Under the best of circumstances, said Mr. Farah, the task of moving in supplies of the quantity needed to many of the areas was "a challenging one". Unfortunately, this task would now have to be carried out under the worst of circumstances because relief operations were being subjected to, and circumscribed by, civil conflict, drought- and war-related famine.

He said the Secretary-General had made it known to the Ethiopian Government that the complexity and magnitude of the problem required acceptance by all parties in the relief operation of a number of principles, among them, the neutrality of humanitarian assistance and the strengthening of the role of the United Nations in the effective assessment of needs and delivery of such assistance.

Mr. Farah said he also wished to discuss with the Ethiopian Government, given the urgency and magnitude of the crisis, the possibility for the United Nations to play a far more active role in the relief operations. He had already made the point to the Ethiopian authorities, and, in the coming days, it would be necessary to define what that role should be.

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A United Nations spokeswoman said today that the good offices mission of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan and Pakistan, as described in General Assembly resolution 44/15 of last November, would continue.

She said the United Nations military officers in Afghanistan and Pakistan, who will be deployed as described in the Secretary-General's letter to the President of the Security Council, should, from now on, be referred to as military advisers to his Personal Representative. This change had no juridical effect on the status of the Geneva Accords which none of the signatories had abrogated.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/601
16 March 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General asks the Security Council to approve an enlargement of the mandate of United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) to enable it to play a part in the voluntary demobilization of the members of the Nicaraguan resistance.

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has asked the Security Council for its urgent approval of an enlargement of the mandate of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) in order to enable it to play a part in the voluntary demobilization of the members of the Nicaraguan resistance.

In a report to the Council (document S/21194 of 15 March), he also asked for the addition of armed personnel to ONUCA, because the task of collecting the weapons and military equipment of the members of the resistance would need to be entrusted to military units equipped with defensive weapons.

The Secretary-General reported that shortly after the elections on 25 February, he was asked by the Nicaraguan Government and by the Nicaraguan Opposition National Unit (UNO) to consult with them about the role of ONUCA in the transition process in that country. Consultations began in Managua on 1 March, with the United Nations side being represented by the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs, and the Chief Military Observer of ONUCA, S. Iqbal Riza, now Alternate Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central American peace process.

The Secretary-General stated that in the course of these consultations, "a broad level of agreement" had been reached "in principle" on modalities, subject to the approval of the Security Council. Among them, ONUCA would be responsible for the military aspects of the implementation of the Tela accord of August last year, that is, the demobilization of the resistance. The International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV), set up pursuant to the Tela accord, would be responsible for the civilian aspects, that is, for repatriation of the members of the resistance and for the monitoring of their welfare.

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For information media—not an official record

The ONUCA would ensure the security of the temporary assembly points in Nicaragua as long as demobilized members of the Nicaraguan resistance remained at them awaiting settlement. The weapons and military equipment handed over to ONUCA by members of the resistance would be held in safe custody by ONUCA until their final disposal was decided upon by the five Central American Presidents.

The Secretary-General further stated that if it proved possible for all the parties concerned to reach early agreement on a plan based on the modalities, the United Nations would have to "move quickly" to deploy the additional personnel and material resources which ONUCA would need to carry out the role envisaged for it. This was on the clear understanding that the additional troops would not be actually deployed until the necessary political conditions, namely, an agreement by all concerned were fulfilled.

The cost of reinforcing ONUCA with an infantry battalion of 800 men for a period of two months had been estimated to be in the range of $7 million to $9 million, excluding the costs of helicopter support. In this context, the Secretary- General drew attention to the fact that only $5.4 million of the $40.4 million apportioned among Member States for ONUCA had so far been received. If the expanded activities he was recommending were to be undertaken by ONUCA, the Secretary-General said it was essential that all States that had not done so should pay without delay their assessed contributions.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/602
19 March 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Five permanent members of the Security Council discuss modalities of a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodia conflict at Paris meeting.

+ Committee preparing for 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil concludes its organizational session, deciding to establish two open-ended working groups.

* * *

The five permanent members of the Security Council met in Paris last week (12-13 March) for a third round of discussions on a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodia conflict. The discussions followed the Informal Meeting on Cambodia held in Jakarta at the end of February, at which common understanding was reached among all concerned, including the Cambodian parties, on the need for an enhanced United Nations role in the settlement process.

The report of the latest meeting is contained in a letter (document S/21196) from the Five addressed to the Secretary-General, annexed to which is a summary of the discussion. It states that a primary purpose of the United Nations involvement will be the organization and conduct of free and fair elections under its direct administration. The five Governments -- China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States -- agreed that the electoral process should lead to the election of a constituent assembly which would approve a constitution and transform itself into a legislative assembly.

The five Powers also invited the four Cambodian parties to agree to the establishment of a supreme national council as the legitimate body and source of authority in which, throughout the period of transition, national sovereignty and unity should be enshrined. Its composition, they said, should be decided by the Cambodian parties themselves and could include representatives of all shades of opinion among the people of Cambodia. The Council would occupy Cambodia's set in the United Nations, its specialized agencies and in other international bodies and conferences.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Agreement was also reached on the necessity for creating a United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to assure the Cambodian people of freedom from intimidation and the threat of force and corruption; to provide them with protection from economic and social discriminations; and to guarantee human and civil rights for all.

The Five agreed to meet again, if possible before the middle of May, in New York to continue their work on this issue. They further intend to meet in Paris and, if the conditions are ripe, to consult with the representatives of the Cambodian parties.

In the interim, they will maintain contact with the Secretary-General's Task Force on Cambodia through their missions in New York and continue their consultations with other interested parties.

* * *

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development concluded its organizational session last Friday, after deciding to establish two open-ended working groups to assist it in carrying out preparations for the 1992 Conference in Brazil.

Working Group I will deal with matters such as protection of the atmosphere by combating climate change, depletion of the ozone layer and transboundary air pollution; protection and management of land resources in ways such as combating deforestation, desertification and drought; conservation of biological diversity; and environmentally sound management of biotechnology. Working Group II's agenda will include protection of oceans, seas and coastal areas and of their living resources; protection of fresh water resources; and environmentally sound management of waste and of toxic chemicals, as well as prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes.

The Committee also decided to deal with legal, institutional and all related matters in an open-ended working group to be set up "at an appropriate time".

In another action, the Committee decided to open a voluntary fund for contributions to support the participation of developing countries in the preparatory process. The Secretary-General was requested to report on the fund's operations to the first substantive session of the Committee. That session, the Committee decided, would take place in Nairobi from 6 to 31 August.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/603
20 March 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General presides over Namibia's independence ceremony at the Windhoek Athletic Stadium and swears in Namibia's new President, Sam Nujoma.

+ Prime Ministers Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan and Brian Mulroney of Canada will serve as co-chairmen of the World Summit for Children to be held at Headquarters on 29 and 30 September.

+ Preparatory Committee for International Development Strategy for Fourth UN Development Decade begins discussion of outline for the new strategy.

+ Human Rights Committee begins consideration of reports of Argentina and Saint Vincent and Grenadines on implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

* * *

The Secretary-General said today at Namibia's independence celebrations in Windhoek that it was the culmination of the struggle for national dignity and independence of many generations of Namibians. It was "a triumph for Namibia and for the principles that are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations".

He said Namibia had been the special concern of the United Nations from its earliest days. The historic process of decolonization, which had been promoted by the Organization, generated a new imperative for Namibia: the restoration to its people of their inalienable right to independence.

The present occasion had a special meaning for him personally, the Secretary-General said. He was filled with profound emotion and gratitude that this, his highest priority in eight years, since he assumed his responsibilities as Secretary-General, had been realized.

The settlement process itself, and the transition to independence, confirmed once again the fundamental importance of negotiation in the

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For information media—not an official record

settlement of international disputes, he went on to say. The negotiations with the parties, initiated by the then five Western members of the Security Council, in conjunction with the front-line States, took many years to mature.

He stressed that the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) was a unique operation, bringing together 8,000 men and women from more than 100 nations. He wanted to pay public tribute to the efforts of his Special Representative, Martti Ahtisaari, and his Deputy, Legwaila J. Legwaila, and the Force Commander, General Prem Chand.

The Secretary-General said that in the conviction that national reconciliation held the key for unlocking closed doors, he had invited the leadership of all the political parties to come together for the first time when he visited Namibia last July. Their response to that call, and the degree to which they developed the concept of joint effort, laid the basis for the success of the whole endeavour.

With the completion of the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 of 1978, UNTAG's mandate to assist the independence process would draw to a close. But the role of the United Nations and of the international community in assisting the Government and people of independent Namibia would not cease, the Secretary-General stated.

Preparations were already under way for him to convene a pledging conference to assist in mobilizing the necessary resources for the social and economic development of Namibia.

The Secretary-General went on to state, "we do not doubt or belittle the dimension of the problems which your new Government now faces". He looked forward to Namibia's becoming the 160th Member State of the world Organization.

The Secretary-General also met with the press at the Windhoek International Airport yesterday. He said the world now spoke of "the Namibian model", in praise of the determination, restraint, tolerance and political maturity that had been demonstrated by Namibians. "The election", he said, "provided a model of democracy in action."

Upon arrival at his residence, the Secretary-General received a call from President-elect Sam Nujoma who thanked him for the role of UNTAG in Namibia, as well as the United Nations role in Namibia's independence. Mr. Nujoma briefed the Secretary-General about his Government's future plans for Namibia, particularly in the field of economic development. The Secretary-General assured him of the Organization's willingness to co-operate in assisting Namibia.

Today, Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar greeted UNTAG staff members, who monitored Namibia's transition to independence. He said that the United Nations operation in Namibia was one of the most complex operations ever undertaken by the United Nations politically, logistically and administratively.

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He commended the staff for their hard work and spirit of dedication, and presented UNTAG Force Commander General Prem Chand and Commissioner Fanning with UNTAG Medals.

Also today, the Secretary-General was scheduled to review a parade of UNTAG military troops and to meet with the United States Secretary of State, James Baker. The Secretary-General was also scheduled to meet with South African President F.W. De Klerk.

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Prime Ministers Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan and Brian Mulroney of Canada will serve as co-chairmen of the World Summit for Children to be held at the United Nations on 29 and 30 September.

The conference will be the first meeting ever held at the level of Heads of State and Government to deal with problems afflicting children around the world and will also be the first North-South-East-West summit, Senator Javed Jabbar of Pakistan, co-chairman of the 27-nation Planning Committee for the Summit, said today.

At a press conference at Headquarters, Mr. Jabbar said that the two leaders were elected at the Planning Committee's meeting yesterday which also designated a working group, headed by Sweden, to draft a declaration on children to be presented at the Summit.

Some of the major issues expected to be discussed at the Summit included health and nutrition, education and rights of children, and the emphasis would be on the need for national economic and social policies sensitive to the needs of the young.

At the Planning Committee's first meeting in January, the Convention on the Rights of the Child was signed by more countries on the first day of signature than any other convention, Mr. Jabbar said. He expected a number of Heads of State or Government of the six initiators of the World Summit to participate in the meeting in September, and added that $1 million had already been pledged by those countries. Present at the summit will be Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar and the Executive Director of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), James P. Grant.

The six countries that originally proposed the Summit last November are Canada, Pakistan, Egypt, Mali, Mexico and Sweden. Serving as secretariat for the summit is UNICEF.

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The Committee established to prepare an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade began discussion of the outline for the new strategy.

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The Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, Rafeeuddin Ahmed, said the 1980s had been an unhappy experience for a large part of the developing world where development had been derailed by external shocks unprecedented in the post-war period. In Latin America, for example, the number of absolute poor would rise, and only a dent would be made in the massive poverty in Asia. Those trends, however, were not inevitable. With appropriate changes in national and international policies, a higher rate of growth and development would be a feasible prospect for developing countries.

The search for solutions to problems resulting from the link between poverty and the degradation of the environment could be beneficial in terms of new or alternative technologies, he continued. The international community must support the aspiration of all countries to grow at a rate that would result in a steady improvement in living standards. Per capita income in developing countries should increase at least 2.5 per cent a year, or, for the vast majority, an increase of $10 t0 $20 a year. A main goal should be the redirection of the world's savings towards meeting the investment requirements of the developing countries on a stable and long-term basis.

The restructuring and integration of the economies of Eastern Europe into the world economy should be based on clear understandings that those resources should not be drawn from the development budgets of developing countries, but should be largely financed by the "peace dividend", he said.

In other statements, John Burke of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community, said the next decade held the promise of immense opportunities and challenges. The Community hoped that decreases in military spending would result in positive benefits.

Speaking on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries, Erwin Ortiz-Gandarillas of Bolivia said the questions before the Committee were ones which his country lived through. In the year 2000, a million more would be swelling the ranks of the poorest. By continuing along the same course and maintaining the same parameters, the gap between the poor and the rich would become even broader.

The representative of the Soviet Union, Eduard Kudryavtsen, said all countries bore joint responsibility for the problems that had been amassed and must contribute to their solution. The environment had become worse and called for special attention. It must differentiate between the situations in the developing countries and the multitude of problems facing them. It must also refer to the reforms in the Eastern European countries and their efforts to reintegrate into the world economy.

Naoto Nikai, of Japan, said there were several measures which his country wanted to see, particularly a balanced statement on the primary responsibility of developing countries with the required international co-operation in furthering their development in an interdependent world.

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The Human Rights Committee yesterday began consideration of the report of Argentina on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Introducing the report, which was due in 1987 and was received in April of this year, Zelmira Ragazzoli said that the economic crisis facing Argentina had created major pockets of poverty, which made it difficult to fully protect and promote economic, social and cultural rights. The present unjust economic order, she said, resulted in a lack of health care, housing and employment opportunities, creating insurmountable obstacles to the enjoyment of civil and political rights.

She said that the state of siege which had been declared in May 1989 by her Government had been lifted, and the Secretary-General had been provided with details of rights that had been temporarily suspended.

The protection of fundamental rights and freedoms in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was reviewed this morning.

In introducing his country's report, Parnell Campbell said his country, which had only recently joined the United Nations, hoped to meet its international responsibilities. It still had capital punishment, but it was invoked infrequently. In the past 10 years, he said, there had only been two executions. He also said that the Criminal Code of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines provided that a sentence of death could not be carried out on someone who was under the age of 16 when the offence was committed, while the Covenant prescribed a minimum age of 18 years. He said he would be taking the matter to the Cabinet for full deliberation.

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Nations Unies

Communiqué de presse

Département de l'information • Service des informations • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/604
21 March 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations observes International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, at solemn meeting of the Special Committee against Apartheid, hearing messages from the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly, and a statement by the President of the Security Council, among others.

+ Secretary-General holds series of bilateral meetings with Heads of State, heads of delegations and other officials attending Namibia's independence celebrations.

+ Dr. Michael H. Merson is appointed Acting Director of the Global Programme on AIDS by the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima.

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The United Nations today observed the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the killing, in Sharpeville, South Africa, on 21 March 1960, of 69 unarmed demonstrators against pass laws by the South African police.

At a solemn meeting of the Special Committee against Apartheid, the Secretary-General stated in a message that today's commemoration coincided with the accession to independence of Namibia as a State free from racial discrimination and reflecting the ideals of the United Nations. He welcomed the release of Nelson Mandela and other South African nationalist leaders who had served long terms of imprisonment for their steadfast opposition to apartheid.

Their release, said the Secretary-General, had been accompanied by the lifting of restrictions on the activities of anti-apartheid organizations within South Africa. However, more remained to be done to enable South Africa to move towards the establishment of a non-racial society where people of all races could be assured of equal rights under the law. He hoped the South African Government would press ahead with the normalization of the political process so that a national dialogue on the country's political future could

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A l'intention des organes d'information—Document non officiel

take place with the full participation of the acknowledged representatives of the people of South Africa.

He urged the Government of South Africa not to delay lifting the state of emergency and to release all remaining political prisoners. He also called on the international community to lend its fullest support "to all those who are engaged in building a new South Africa in line with the will of its people".

Addressing the meeting, the President of the Security Council, Abdalla Saleh Al-Ashtal of Democratic Yemen, said the Council had repeatedly called for the total elimination of apartheid and the establishment of a free, democratic, non-racial society in South Africa with universal suffrage.

The President of the General Assembly, Joseph N. Garba of Nigeria, said in a message that the observance of the International Day was taking place at a crucial and encouraging juncture of developments in the world, particularly in the southern African region. It also reflected the final phase in international efforts to rid the world of the scourge of racism and racial discrimination.

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Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar had a series of bilateral meetings with Heads of State, heads of delegations and other officials attending Namibia's independence celebrations today, according to his spokeswoman.

The Secretary-General received a briefing from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Thorvald Stoltenberg, on the refugee situation in Afghanistan, South-East Asia and Central America. He then met with Prime Minister V.P. Singh of India to discuss the international situation and the future of Namibia, particularly the economic needs of the country and the possibility of a fund-raising conference which the Secretary-General would hold some time in June. He had also met with head of the Japanese delegation on Namibia's future economic needs and Japanese assistance to United Nations peace-keeping operations, as well as on Western Sahara and Cambodia.

The Secretary-General had then met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), to discuss the economic assistance required by Namibia and the possibility of technical co-operation among developing nations. They discussed the situation in the Middle East and the question of Western Sahara, in light of the Secretary-General's forthcoming visit to North Africa. The Secretary-General is to travel to Cairo in May for talks with President Mubarak.

The Secretary-General met with the President of Mozambique concerning the progress on national reconciliation in that country, as well as Mozambique's emergency needs. A donors' consultative meeting, to be held on 27 April in New York, is being organized jointly by the United Nations and the Mozambican Government and will be opened by the Secretary-General and the Prime Minister of Mozambique.

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The Secretary-General also attended a ceremony during which the new Government ministers of Namibia were sworn in.

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Dr. Michael H. Merson, Director of the Diarrhoeal Diseases Control Programme, has been appointed Acting Director of the Global Programme on AIDS, succeeding Dr. Jonathan Mann.

Dr. Merson was appointed yesterday by the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, to facilitate a smooth transition. Dr. Merson is also in charge of the Control of Acute Respiratory Infections Programme and has been an international civil servant with WHO for 12 years.

Dr. Walter Dowdle will assist Dr. Merson as a consultant. He is the Deputy Director of the United States Public Health Service's Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta, where he has been responsible for AIDS control activities.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/605
22 March 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General holds series of bilateral discussions with Heads of State, Foreign Ministers and other dignitaries attending Namibia's independence celebrations.

+ Secretary-General holds press conference following opening of United Nations Centre in Windhoek.

+ Secretary-General expresses "deep concern" about the continuing reports of violence and ethnic strife emanating from Romania.

+ Representative of Secretary-General on Central America holds meetings in San Salvador and Mexico City with President Cristiani and commanders of the national liberation front, FMLN.

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On his last day in Namibia, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar today had an intensive series of bilateral discussions with various Heads of State, Foreign Ministers and other dignitaries attending Namibia's independence celebrations.

He met with President Janez Drnovsek of Yugoslavia to review recent global developments and their impact on the work of the United Nations and the Non-Aligned Movement, of which Yugoslavia is the Chairman.

The Secretary-General then met with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, with whom he discussed emergency and relief assistance to Angola. In that context, the Secretary-General informed the Angolan President of his intention to send Under-Secretary-General Abdulrahim Farah to Angola to discuss the situation. The incident last Saturday, in which a Cuban soldier was killed by UNITA forces and several others wounded, was also discussed.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar had also met with the Vice-President of Ethiopia, Fisseha Desta, and informed him that Under-Secretary-General Farah would be

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For information media—not an official record

visiting that country on 28 March. They discussed problems related to emergency relief operations in that country and explored ways and means by which the United Nations could give additional support.

During a meeting with the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Secretary-General complimented his Government's contribution to Namibian development.

The Secretary-General had also met with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Salim Ahmed Salim, with whom he discussed Namibia's future, with particular emphasis on the need for concerted international action for the financial and economic development of the country. They also reviewed the situation in southern Africa, Western Sahara and United Nations/OAU co-operation.

The Secretary-General also met with Nelson Mandela. The two discussed the situation in southern Africa and what progress could be made in South Africa. They also discussed the role of the United Nations in bringing Namibia to independence and the role of the Organization in South Africa.

He then met with the head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO) in connection with preparations for his forthcoming trip to North Africa regarding Western Sahara.

The Secretary-General attended the opening of the United Nations Centre in Namibia, which will house the developmental agencies of the United Nations system. Also present at the opening were the Prime Minister of Namibia, Hage Geingob, and Foreign Minister Theo-Ben Gurirab, as well as the Administrator-General of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), William Draper III.

The Secretary-General also held meetings with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Kazi Kafar Ahmed, and with Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India.

* * *

The task of the United Nations has not ended with the independence of Namibia, the Secretary-General said at a press conference today in Windhoek.

At the opening of the United Nations Centre in Windhoek, which will house the developmental agencies of the United Nations system, he told correspondents that it was the duty of the Organization, and the whole United Nations system, "to help Namibia consolidate its independence, to achieve stability, both political and economic, and to achieve rapid progress". Namibia, he said, should be a model for all developing countries.

Asked if he thought it might serve as a model for South Africa or Palestine, the Secretary-General said Namibia provided them both with a fine model of democracy and free expression of the will of the people.

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The Secretary-General said he had brought the matter of an extension of the mandate of United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in Namibia to the attention of the Security Council, and that it was under discussion. Meanwhile, there would, in any case, be a small administrative presence remaining to liaise with the Government.

The Secretary-General will leave Namibia tomorrow morning on his way to Rabat, the first leg of his trip to North Africa in connection with his good offices mission on Western Sahara. On the way, the Secretary- General will stop over in Abidjan, where he will meet with President Felix Houphouet-Boigny of Côte d'Ivoire.

* * *

The Secretary-General has expressed "deep concern" about the continuing reports of violence and ethnic strife emanating from Romania. He has appealed to all concerned "to exercise the utmost restraint and to undertake goodwill efforts at reconciliation to avoid further bloodshed".

His spokesman said today that the Secretary-General had met yesterday with the Romanian Foreign Minister in Windhoek and had been fully briefed on the position of the Hungarian Government on the situation in Transylvania.

* * *

The Secretary-General's Representative on Central America, Alvaro de Soto, has been in San Salvador and Mexico City this week, meeting with President Cristiani of El Salvador and the commanders of the Frente Farabundo Marti para Liberación Nacional (FMLN), in the framework of his efforts towards a negotiation to bring to an end the conflict in that country.

According to his Spokesman, the Secretary-General appreciated the co-operation he had been receiving from the Government and the FMLN, and he trusted that at this delicate stage the utmost restraint would be exercised in public statements. The consultations with the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN have not yet concluded.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/606
23 March 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General is on his way to two-day visit to Morocco in pursuance of his good offices mission on question of Western Sahara.

+ Hungarian Government expresses grave concern at what it calls "the mass and flagrant violations of human rights in regions inhabited by ethnic Hungarians", in a letter to Secretary-General.

+ President-elect of Costa Rica, Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier, says his country is willing to co-operate with the Secretary-General in efforts to demobilize contras in Nicaragua.

+ Solemn meeting by United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA), marking fifth anniversary on Sunday of abduction of Alec Collett, hears message from Secretary-General.

+ Jan Martenson, Under Secretary-General for Human Rights, addresses Human Rights Committee.

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The Secretary-General was on his way to Morocco today in pursuance of his good offices mission on the question of Western Sahara. During his two-day visit, the Secretary-General will meet with King Hassan of Morocco. While in the area, he will also meet with Mohamed Abdelaziz, Secretary-General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio do Oro (POLISARIO).

The Secretary-General will then travel to Algiers where he will pay a courtesy call on President Chadli Bendjedid, in his capacity as one of the two observers of the Western Sahara talks. After departing Algeria on Tuesday, 27 March, the Secretary-General will make a private visit to Jordan before arriving in Paris on 31 March.

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The Hungarian Government has expressed grave concern at what it calls "the mass and flagrant violations of human rights in regions inhabited by

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ethnic Hungarians". In a letter dated 20 March addressed to the Secretary-General (document A/45/175), Hungary's Foreign Minister Gyula Horn called attention to what he termed "the dangers of growing Romanian nationalism contradicting the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations".

Hungary said it regarded the demand expressed by Romanian organizations to expel Hungarians from Transylvania, as ignoring "all norms of civilized coexistence". Mr. Horn said his Government called the international community and the United Nations to take effective measures in order to protect the individual and collective rights of "the largest minority in Europe".

Yesterday in Windhoek, the Secretary-General had a meeting with the Foreign Minister of Romania and was then fully briefed on the position of the Hungarian Government. He expressed "deep concern" about the continuing reports of violence and ethnic strife emanating from Romania.

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The President-elect of Costa Rica, Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier, said at a press conference this afternoon that his country was willing to co-operate with the Secretary-General, helping him to fully demobilize the contras in Nicaragua in order to reach a peaceful solution. No plans had been approved yet, he said, but his Government would permit unarmed contras to enter Costa Rica temporarily, as had been done in the past, until they were reintegrated into their society.

Asked what was the main obstacle to peace in Central America, he said peace and democracy had to correspond with social and economic development. In that context, he said he would be trying to put on track the Central American common market, this time including Belize.

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Sunday, 25 March, will mark the fifth anniversary of the abduction of Alec Collett, who was taken hostage near Beirut while on assignment for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

At a solemn meeting this morning of the United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA), the Secretary-General, in a statement read by Assistant Secretary-General Alvaro de Soto, said it was especially painful that there had been no news of Mr. Collett for almost four years. This had caused him deep personal frustration. At a time when the principles of the United Nations Charter, particularly those which upheld human rights, were increasingly being reaffirmed, the practice of holding innocent people hostage became all the more reprehensible.

The Secretary-General assured the family of Mr. Collett that he and his senior staff would continue to pursue every possible path that might lead to

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information about him. The same was true with respect to Lieutenant-Colonel William Higgins, who was abducted two years ago while serving the cause of peace with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Since his disappearance in 1985, Mr. Collett has been elected every year as the honorary President of UNCA.

* * *

The Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, Jan Martenson, yesterday addressed the Human Rights Committee.

He said the international climate for achieving further real progress in the field of human rights continued to be propitious, and the full advantage should be taken of the favourable opportunities. He referred to the dramatic improvements in the international political climate in the past year or two, including the promising détente between the Soviet Union and the United States; the restoration of democracy in a number of countries in South and Central America; the independence of Namibia; the release of Nelson Mandela; and the dramatic political developments in Eastern Europe.

He said the Convention on the Rights of the Child had so far been signed by 75 States and ratified by two, since 26 January when it was opened for signature in New York. It was anticipated that the 20 ratifications required to bring it into force would be forthcoming within a year or so, and that the Committee on the Rights of the Child would be able to begin its activities soon thereafter. He recalled that the General Assembly, in an important political decision, had requested the Secretary-General to seek views on the convening of an international conference on human rights, similar to the conference held in Teheran in 1968. Such a major conference would give the international community an opportunity to take stock of achievements in the field of human rights and the potential for further advances.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/607
26 March 1990

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General is in Algeria for talks with Algerian and POLISARIO leaders after a two-day visit to Morocco where he had talks with King Hassan II of Morocco in connection with his mission of good offices on Western Sahara.

+ Secretary-General says neither Iran nor Iraq is giving the help the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) needs to carry out its mandate, in a report to the Security Council for the period 23 September 1989 to 22 March.

+ Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, Rafeeuddin Ahmed, addresses Committee on Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, beginning its two-week session at Headquarters.

* * *

The Secretary-General arrived in Marrakech Friday evening after stopping over in Abidjan, where he had lunch with President Felix Houphouet-Boigny of Côte d'Ivoire.

Upon his arrival at the airport, he told the press that it was high time to speed up to the peace process which had dragged on for too long. "The new atmosphere of reconciliation and of peaceful solutions to problems", he said, "makes it all the more important to move forward towards a positive and rapid solution to the Western Sahara problem".

He was met at the airport by the Minister of the Interior, Driss Basri; the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations, Driss Slaoui; and other members of the Government. The Moroccan Foreign Minister, Abdellatif Filali, was travelling with the Secretary-General on the same plane from Windhoek.

On Saturday, the Secretary-General met with his Special Representative on Western Sahara, Johannes Manz, and his other top aides in preparation for the forthcoming round of talks on Western Sahara.

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For information media—not an official record

On Sunday, he travelled to Rabat for a tête-à-tête meeting with King Hassan II of Morocco at the Royal Palace. The meeting lasted for one-and-a-half hours.

Before leaving Rabat for Algiers, the Secretary-General told the press at the airport that during his meeting with the King, which he characterized as "extremely useful", they had also discussed matters of mutual interest to the United Nations and Morocco. He said that at both his meeting with the King and at the earlier meeting held at the expert level between the United Nations delegation and Moroccan officials, clarifications were given to the Moroccan side, which in turn provided a very clear picture of its position.

Asked what the Moroccan position was on the withdrawal of their army and administration from Western Sahara, the Secretary-General said he was proceeding step by step, and that he had received certain clarifications on the question.

The Secretary-General arrived in Algiers Sunday evening and was met at the airport by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria, Sid Ahmed Ghozali; the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations, Hocine Djoudi; and other government officials.

Upon his arrival, the Secretary-General told the press that he was confident that both parties wanted a peaceful solution to the problem of Western Sahara. Asked about the proposed referendum, the Secretary-General recalled that when he had submitted his peace plan in 1988, both parties had agreed to the holding of a referendum. The Secretary-General also told the press that he counted on the sincere co-operation of Algeria and Mauritania, in their capacity as observers to the process. He noted that he had had a long talk with the Vice-President of Mauritania in Windhoek and had briefed him about the latest developments and hoped to do the same with President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria, with whom he dined later that evening.

Today the Secretary-General, in exercise of his good offices concerning the question of Western Sahara, left Algiers for Tindouf, in southwest Algeria, where he was to meet with the leadership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO). He is scheduled to fly back to Algiers this evening.

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Neither Iran nor Iraq is giving all the help the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) needs if it is to carry out the tasks entrusted to it by the Security Council, the Secretary-General stated in his report on the Observer Group for the period 23 September 1989 to 22 March (document S/21200 of 22 March).

He reported that it had continued to prove impossible to obtain the agreement of both Iran and Iraq to the establishment of a mixed military working group and that the group had not been convened so far. Despite this, the Chief Military Observer had continued to pursue a number of measures to

help ease tension between the parties. Among them was repatriation of war dead and the continuing efforts to obtain the release of prisoners captured by both sides since August 1988. However, it had not proven possible thus far to reach agreement on these cases. The UNIIMOG had also on several occasions been able to assist with economic reconstruction activities which it had monitored close to the cease-fire lines.

There had been no progress in UNIIMOG's efforts to obtain the opening of three crossing points to enable United Nations personnel and vehicles to cross from one side to the other. At several points on the cease-fire lines, the parties continued to remain dangerously close, the Secretary-General stated.

The report is intended to provide the Council with a comprehensive account of the manner in which UNIIMOG has carried out the mandate that was approved by the Council in August 1988, which was, among other things, "to establish with the parties agreed cease-fire lines and to investigate any alleged violations" of these. Thereafter, "to monitor the cease-fire on the internationally recognized boundaries" and "to obtain the agreement of the parties to other arrangements which could help reduce tension and build confidence between them".

As of 1 March, the staff strength of UNIIMOG was 403, but only some 200 are in the mission area at present. As soon as agreement was reached on the deployment of the United Nations naval unit and the United Nations-operated helicopters, additional recruitment would have to be initiated, the Secretary-General stated.

As at the beginning of March, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNIIMOG Special Account amounted to some $21 million.

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With population increasing throughout the world, waste disposal and the use of energy are becoming serious problems. Between 1950 and 1970, the number of cities in developing countries with a population of at least 1 million more than doubled, and by the year 2000 the number of cities is expected to triple.

This is one of the main concerns that will be addressed by the Committee on Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, beginning its two-week fifth session today at Headquarters.

The Committee will also focus on the latest techniques in turning garbage into energy, converting solar energy directly to electrical energy and using renewable energy sources for rural development.

Today the Committee was addressed by the Under Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, Rafeeuddin Ahmed, who said there had been increasing pressure on traditional sources of energy as a result of fast population growth and lack of affordable alternative energy sources. Failure to act, he warned, might result in energy shortages and a sudden and

sharp increase in prices with destabilizing effects on the world economy. He said the development of new and renewable energy sources could greatly contribute to the fulfilment of the needs of people living in rural areas.

Mr. Ahmed said that unfortunately new and renewable energy sources had not been more fully developed due to: inadequate policy support, costs, inadequate consideration being given to the socio-cultural context of applying the new technologies in the rural areas, and widespread poverty.

He said that despite those constraints, several sources of energy technology had been successfully applied in many developing countries. In Africa, for instance, more than 60 per cent of the energy requirements were met by new and renewable sources of energy, while the world-wide rate was only 14 per cent.

He said the lack of alternative sources of energy in many developing countries had led to increasing pressure on traditional sources, particularly fuelwood. As a result, deforestation and denuding of the countryside had created a crisis of major magnitude and intensity.

Electricity shortages in about 30 developing countries were causing serious disruption of economic activities, he said, with over 2 billion people in Africa, Asia and Latin America today having no access to electricity.

Another issue which will be addressed by the Committee is the conversion of waste into energy sources. The potential contribution of solid waste to energy supplies can be illustrated in the case of the United States where it is estimated that through recycling and conversion, about 500 million barrels of oil could be saved per year. According to a report before the Committee, many cities in the developing world now spend over 30 per cent of their budgets on garbage collection and disposal.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/508
27 March 1990

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council votes unanimously to expand role of United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA). The ONUCA will participate in the demobilization of the Nicaraguan resistance forces, while an 800-man infantry battalion will take delivery of weapons and secure all assembly points.

+ Security Council hears eight more speakers in debate on "unlawful Israeli moves to settle the occupied territories".

+ Secretary-General meets with POLISARIO Secretary-General in Tindouf; and with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and other officials in Algiers.

+ General Assembly resumes its forty-fourth session to consider the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

+ High-level United Nations Inter-Agency Mission is in Afghanistan and Pakistan to discuss with leaders in the area "zones of tranquility" for humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan.

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The Security Council this afternoon expanded the mandate of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) to include participation in the demobilization of the Nicaraguan resistance and added to it an 800-man infantry battalion from Venezuela, to take delivery of weapons and secure assembly areas for the resistance forces. The Council took that action by its unanimous adoption of resolution 650 (1990).

The original mandate for ONUCA was to verify, on the spot, compliance with the security arrangements contained in the Esquipulas II agreements, which called for cessation of aid to irregular forces operating in the region and the non-use of the territory of one State for attacking others.

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For information media—not an official record

Following the vote, the representative of the United States said his country supported both the full Esquipulas process of the five Central American Presidents and the continuing efforts by the Secretary-General and his staff, in consultation with the Council, to assist in implementation of the peace plan. He said there should be no doubt in anyone's mind about the position of the United States on the question of the contras. It wanted and encouraged them to demobilize freely and return to their land to contribute to its development.

The representative of Cuba said he hoped that with the resolution and the activities of the United Nations in Nicaragua, there would be an end to a situation which had brought such suffering to the Nicaraguan people. However, it would be ironic if now it fell to the international community to pay for an operation that should never have existed, particularly in view of the $321 million received in external financing of the Nicaraguan resistance.

* * *

The Security Council this morning heard eight more speakers in its continued consideration of "unlawful Israeli moves to settle the occupied territories".

Taking part were the representatives of Egypt, Yemen, Tunisia, Syria, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and China. The observer for the Organization of the Islamic Conference also spoke.

The meeting was the third in the series being held in response to a request by the Soviet Union, which stated in a letter dated 12 February that the actions by the Israeli Government ran counter to the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilians in Time of War and obstructed Middle East peace efforts.

The Council debate will continue at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow, 28 March.

* * *

The Secretary-General, continuing his visit to North Africa, arrived yesterday in Tindouf, Algeria, where he had a two-hour meeting with Mohamed Abdelaziz, Secretary-General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO), and other officials on the subject of Western Sahara. The Secretary-General said later that during his present round of talks with the Moroccan side and POLISARIO representatives, he had found "a more propitious atmosphere and a greater political will to move towards the implementation of the referendum". He characterized his talks with the POLISARIO leadership as "extremely useful", and said that it would help him to move forward with his efforts. In answer to a question, the Secretary-General cited the example of the elections in Namibia and Nicaragua, which were, he said, "a testimony to the impartiality of the United Nations".

The Secretary-General met for half an hour this morning with President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria and other Algerian officials. He informed the

President of the outcome of the round of talks he had just concluded with King Hassan II of Morocco, and with the POLISARIO leadership.

At the airport in Algiers, the Secretary-General told the press that in his talks with the Moroccan side and POLISARIO, he had found a political will to move forward. "That does not mean, however, that all obstacles have been resolved. What is important is that both sides have accepted the holding of a referendum. It is now up to the United Nations, in co-ordination with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), to give the necessary assurances that such a referendum will be 100 per cent impartial."

The Secretary-General also said that his talks with the two parties had helped him clarify certain positions and ascertain that his interlocutors want to process to move forward. He said he would now report to the Security Council.

* * *

The General Assembly yesterday resumed its forty-fourth session to consider the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

A draft decision, recommended by the Committee in its report, would have the Assembly decide on the mandate and responsibilities of the secretariat for the Conference, which would include organizing meetings of the Preparatory Committee, its officers and the working groups; co-ordination of support from the United Nations system, including the provision of reports and information about the activities of the system in areas related to the preparatory process; and support to the regional commissions in holding regional conferences, enabling them to contribute fully to the work of the Preparatory Committee and to the Conference to be held in June 1992 in Brazil.

The Preparatory Committee held its organizational session from 5 to 16 March in New York. Its first substantive session will be held from 6 to 31 August in Nairobi.

* * *

A high-level United Nations Inter-Agency Mission has been in Afghanistan and Pakistan over the past three days for meetings with leaders in the area to discuss peace and reconstruction in Afghanistan.

The Mission consisted of Sadruddin Aga Khan, Co-ordinator for United Nations Humanitarian and Economic Assistance relating to Afghanistan; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Thorvald Stoltenberg; the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), James Charles Ingram; and the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Benon Sevan.

The United Nations officials met with the President of Pakistan, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and with Foreign Minister

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad. They also held talks with Afghan leaders, including Professor Sibghatullah Mojaddedi and his colleagues in Pakistan.

They Mission noted that parts of Afghanistan have been free from armed conflict for some time, and that the United Nations is now in a position to focus its humanitarian assistance activities in those "zones of tranquility". It said the current prevailing conditions allow for an increased presence of United Nations officials and more systematic large-scale rehabilitation programmes. These programmes will be focused particularly on the needs of displaced persons who are now able to return home.

The Mission stressed that the refugee situation should not be allowed to stagnate. It was the joint responsibility of the United Nations, the Government of Pakistan and, above all, the Afghan leaders, to commit themselves to voluntary repatriation this year and the return home of the remaining refugees as soon as possible.

The Mission members pledged the full support of their organizations for the efforts of all parties involved to bring the conflict to an end and to promote voluntary repatriation of the refugees as well as the reconstruction of the country.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/609
28 March 1990

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General is informed by Honduran Government about the "Toncontin Agreement" between representatives of the President-elect of Nicaragua, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, and the resistance in that country with the participation of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, on 23 March at Tegucigalpa, which contains the terms of demobilization of the resistance.

+ Special Committee against Apartheid expresses concern at reports of the killing of at least nine persons and the wounding of hundreds by the South African police during a peaceful march in Sebokeng township.

+ Cuban Ambassador holds press conference to address what he calls "illegal attempt by the United States Government to broadcast television signals to Cuba".

* * *

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has been informed in a letter from the Honduran Government about the "Toncontin Agreement", which contains the terms of the process of the general demobilization of the resistance (document A/44/931-S/21206 of 26 March).

The Agreement was concluded between representatives of the President-elect of Nicaragua, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, and the Nicaraguan resistance with the participation of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo on 23 March at Tegucigalpa.

The Toncontin Agreement states that the Negotiating Committee of the Nicaraguan resistance has decided to initiate the process of the general demobilization of its forces, beginning by 20 April at the latest. It requests the co-operation and assistance of international bodies such as the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), the International Commission for Support and Verification (CIAV) and Cardinal Obando y Bravo to verify an effective cease-fire.

(more)

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The Committee of the resistance also stated that a number of steps would have to be taken to cease the military confrontations, among them a concentration of the armed forces of the resistance currently in Nicaragua in "security zones" supervised by ONUCA and CIAV.

The delegation representing the President-Elect, Mrs. Chamorro, stated that it would undertake to take measures to ensure the rehabilitation and social reintegration of the "innocent victims of the armed struggle". In addition, the new Government would undertake to arrange with appropriate Governments humanitarian assistance for the members of the Nicaraguan resistance, as well as medical aid for victims over the duration of the demobilization.

It also stated that for the purpose of implementing all that was agreed on, that there should be appointed a special transition committee, composed of members of the new Government and the Nicaraguan resistance.

* * *

The Special Committee against Apartheid is concerned at the news that the South African police killed at least nine persons and wounded hundreds of others during a peaceful march in the township of Sebokeng. This was said in a statement issued today by the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, Guennadi Oudovenko of Ukraine.

Mr. Oudovenko said the march, which had been declared illegal under the state of emergency, was organized to protest against high rents and racially segregated housing. He said that "such police violence taking place 30 years after the tragic events of Sharpeville raise serious questions about Pretoria's ability to control its police".

The Special Committee condemned the use of violence by the police which definitely subverted the efforts of all those within and outside South Africa working towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict in that country. It considered that at this critical stage official violence can only exacerbate the tense atmosphere prevailing in South Africa and may endanger the fragile process of negotiations now evolving to which the people of South Africa are seriously committed.

In line with the Declaration adopted by consensus by the General Assembly special session last December, the Special Committee called on the international community to use concerted pressure so that Pretoria would "put an end to this official terrorism and to the insidious activities of vigilante groups", Mr. Oudovenko said.

* * *

Cuba's Ambassador to the United Nations held a press conference at Headquarters today to address what he called "the illegal attempt by the United States Government to broadcast television signals to Cuba".

(more)

Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, of Cuba, said two attempts had been made by the United States to broadcast television programming in Spanish -- the first on 27 March and the second last night. He said that both were successfully interrupted by Cuba after the first eight to 10 minutes, through electronic jamming.

The Cuban Government considered the United States transmissions a violation of national sovereignty, as well as international law, in particular of the Nairobi 1982 Convention and of the International Telecommunication Union's Convention, of which both Cuba and the United States are signatories, he said.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/610
29 March 1990

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council unanimously adopts resolution renewing the mandate of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) for a further period of six months, until 30 September.

+ The Council continues its consideration of "unlawful Israeli moves to settle the occupied territories", hearing 10 speakers.

* * *

The Security Council this afternoon renewed the mandate of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) for a further six months, to 30 September. The current mandate of the Group expires on 31 March.

In adopting resolution 651 (1990) unanimously, the Council also called once again upon the parties concerned to implement immediately Security Council resolution 598 (1987).

The Council demanded that, "as a first step towards a negotiated settlement, Iran and Iraq observe an immediate cease-fire, discontinue all military actions on land, at sea and in the air, and withdrew all forces to the internationally recognized boundaries without delay". It also requested that the Secretary-General explore, in consultation with Iran and Iraq, "the question of entrusting an impartial body with inquiring into responsibility for the conflict and to report to the Security Council as soon as possible". Finally, the Council requested that the Secretary-General report again at the end of the newly mandated period on developments in the situation, and the measures taken to implement resolution 598.

In extending the UNIIMOG mandate, the Council had for its consideration a report of the Secretary-General (document S/21200) for the period 23 September 1989 to 22 March. The Secretary-General recommended renewal of the mandate to 30 September.

He states in the report that during the period covered by the report, UNIIMOG has continued to receive co-operation from the two parties. The Secretary-General adds, however: "I am not yet in a position to report that

(more)

For information media—not an official record

either party is giving all the help UNIIMOG needs if it is to carry out the tasks entrusted to it by the Security Council."

On financial aspects, the report states that if the Council should decide to extend the Group beyond the current mandate period, costs for its maintenance would be within the commitment authorized by the General Assembly in resolution 44/189, assuming continuance of the existing responsibilities of UNIIMOG. That resolution authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments at a rate not to exceed $6,401,333 gross ($6,237,333 net) per month for the six-month period under consideration, subject to the prior agreement of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).

A United Nations Spokesman said earlier today that Ambassador Jan Eliasson, the Secretary-General's Personal Representative in the area, had been in close and continuous contact with the parties, and that he had briefed the Secretary-General yesterday. The Spokesman said "both sides have indicated in principle that they favour the meeting proposed by the Secretary-General, but there are requests for comments and questions which are being clarified and assessed at the moment by the Ambassador".

* * *

The Security Council continued debate this morning on the settlement by Israel in the occupied territories of new immigrants from the Soviet Union. The request for the Council meeting refers to the "unlawful Israeli moves to settle the occupied territories".

Statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Finland, France, the United Kingdom, Algeria, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, Iran and Afghanistan.

This morning's meeting was the fifth in a series convened in response to a request by the Soviet Union, which stated in a letter to the Council President, dated 12 February, that the actions by the Israeli Government ran counter to the Fourth Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in time of war and obstructed Middle East peace efforts.

Consideration of the item will be continued on a date to be announced.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/610/Corr.1
30 March 1990

T H U R S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

CORRECTION

In Press Release DH/610, issued yesterday, the first sentence of the third paragraph should read as follows:

"Under the terms of resolution 598 (1987), the Council demanded that, 'as a first step towards a negotiated settlement, Iran and Iraq observe an immediate cease-fire, discontinue all military actions on land, at sea and in the air, and withdraw all forces to the internationally recognized boundaries without delay'."

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For information media—not an official record

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/611
30 March 1990

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ The Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Central America, Alvaro de Soto, announces that the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN liberation movement are to meet with the Secretary-General in Geneva on 4 April.

+ United Nations Council for Namibia to hold three-day special plenary meetings -- its last -- in Windhoek from 9 to 11 April.

* * *

The Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Central America, Alvaro de Soto, today communicated to Headquarters that, following a meeting in Mexico City, the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) have agreed to meet with the Secretary-General in Geneva on Wednesday, 4 April. A United Nations spokesman said he had no details yet as to time, duration or level of the meeting. He said the Secretary-general would be stopping in Geneva on his way from Paris to Athens to attend the talks.

* * *

The United Nations Council for Namibia is to hold special plenary meetings -- its last -- in Windhoek from 9 to 11 April.

Among the issues to be discussed by the Council during the three-day session will be its own activities in carrying out its mandate; a report on the implementation of Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia; and the transitional arrangements for the United Nations Institute for Namibia. At the close of the meeting, a declaration on the fulfilment of the Council's mandate with respect to Namibia will be adopted.

The Council has invited the President of Namibia, Sam Nujoma, to make the opening statement to the meeting. Also invited are the Secretary-General and representatives of other United Nations and international bodies.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Council had originally planned to hold the meetings during the independence celebrations held earlier this month, but logistical difficulties prevented such a meeting.

The Committee on Conferences, on 23 March, approved the Council's request to hold the meeting away from Headquarters but encouraged the Council and its secretariat to explore the possibilities for defraying part of the expenses in kind.

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